* Dedicated call centre both at Delhi/Mumbai for assistance to GSM/ CDMA subscribers.

* Providing a large number of value added services to its cellular mobile subscriber like call forwarding, call waiting, Calling Line Indentification, voice mail service, short message service, itemized bill/detailed bill, all India roaming, International roaming, PSTN bill reviewing on SMS, closed user group, service etc.

* Commissioned a new billing solution for the cellular mobile subscriber to address the various options of the subscriber in respect of their bills.

Rural tele-density in Orissa

1038. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa's rural tele-density stands at mearly 0.9 per cent;

(b) whether the State has been left far behind the target of 7 per cent tele-density that should have been achieved by 2005; and

(c) the action of Government to ensure a respectable rural tele-density alongwith using ICT to boost development of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Orissa's rural tele-density was 1.16 per cent as on 31.03.2006.

(b) The overall tele-density of the State was 7.57% as on 31.03.2006.

(c) Following steps have been taken for improving rural tele-density and use of ICT in Orissa:—

(i) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing individual Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 96 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in Orissa out of total 120 SDCAs in the State, with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(ii) BSNL has installed at least one Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Basic Transreceiver Station (BTS) in 102 SDCAs out of total number of 120 SDCAs in Orissa as on 30.06.2006.

(iii) BSNL has planned to expand its mobile services upto Block Headquarters and villages having population more than 5,000. As on 30.06.2006, 203 Block Headquarters out of total number of 314 Block Headquarters have been covered by mobile services in Orissa. BSNL plans to add 3.00 lakh mobile connections in Orissa in 2006-07.

(iv) BSNL has floated a tender for expansion of its mobile network by 63 million lines. A significant portion of these additional lines will go to the rural areas of the country including that of Orissa.

(v) There are 37,706 internet connections by BSNL in Orissa. BSNL has plans to provide 10,700 internet connections in the year 2006-07.

Imposition of U.S.O. fee

1039. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2006 mandates every service provider with Rs. 25 lakhs turnover should pay 10 per cent to help the Postal Department meets its Universal Service Obligation;

(b) whether the Competition Commission of India has asked the department to study its present cost structure and assess the burden of serving remote areas of the country, before proposing imposition of Universal Service Obligation fee; and

(c) whether the Commission has asked the department to explore the possibilities of cross-subsidising the likely deficit in serving remote areas from the lucrative segment services of the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.